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(U.S. HELSINKI COMMISSION)

November 15, 2016

The Honorable Loretta E. Lynch
Attorney General
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Lynch:

According to recent press reports, a new information management system at the Shelby County Jail and courts in Tennessee is experiencing so many computer glitches that it is causing individuals who have posted bail to remain stuck in jail because critical information cannot be located.¹

According to one defense attorney, his client had to wait in jail for five days after posting bond before being released.²

In some cases inmates simply could not be found in the system at all, causing problems bringing inmates from the jail into courtrooms.³

If true, these reports are deeply concerning. No one should spend one additional minute, let alone days, in jail when, under law, they are supposed to be free. As the *Memphis Commercial Appeal* so aptly put it, justice delayed is justice denied.⁴

¹ 11/11/16 *Memphis Commercial Appeal*: Records system causing problems at jail, available at: <http://www.commercialappeal.com/story/news/courts/2016/11/11/records-system-causing-problems-jail/93610896/>

² 11/11/16 *Memphis Commercial Appeal*: Records system causing problems at jail, available at: <http://www.commercialappeal.com/story/news/courts/2016/11/11/records-system-causing-problems-jail/93610896/>

³ 11/11/16 *Memphis Commercial Appeal*: Records system causing problems at jail, available at: <http://www.commercialappeal.com/story/news/courts/2016/11/11/records-system-causing-problems-jail/93610896/>

⁴ 11/15/16 *Memphis Commercial Appeal*: Justice delayed is justice denied, available at: <http://www.commercialappeal.com/story/opinion/editorials/2016/11/14/justice-delayed-justice-denied/93821710/>

I respectfully request that the Department of Justice look into this problem to ensure that civil rights are protected.

As always, I remain,

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Cohen", written in a cursive style.

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress